








Timeline of Events		Key Individuals	Description
1455	War of the Roses begins with the Battle of St Albans	1. Henry VI	He was the last Lancastrian ruler of England, Henry's reign was dominated by the Wars of the Roses. He was known as the mad King and he kept having to take breaks from ruling. Richard of York often ruled when he was ill. His mental illnesses led to the War of the Roses.
1461	March 30: Edward of York is declared King Edward IV in London.	2. Edward IV	Oldest son of Richard of York descended from the fourth son of Edward III, he fought ferociously in the Wars of the Roses leading the Yorkist cause against the Lancastrians after his father's death in 1460 at the Battle of Wakefield.
1471	April: King Henry VI is imprisoned in the Tower of London	3. Richard III	Youngest brother of Edward IV, he was descended from the fourth son of Edward III. He was part of the Yorkist family.
1471	King Henry VI died mysteriously whilst captured. Leaving Edward IV to rule until his death in 1483.	4. Princes in the Tower	Edward IV died unexpectedly and this left his two young sons, Richard 9 and Edward 12 to rule the country, as Edward was too young their Uncle Richard III ruled instead. They were placed in the Tower of London for safe keeping but soon escaped.
1483	Richard III crowned King after his brother death.	5. Henry Tudor (Henry VII)	He was descended from the third son, John of Gaunt, of Edward III and believed he had a stronger claim to the throne than Richard III who was descended from the 4 th son of Edward III.
1483	Disappearance of the Richard III nephews from the Tower of London.	6. Elizabeth of York	Daughter of Edward VI, in order to settle England Henry Tudor married her after the Battle of Bosworth. This was to enable the Houses of York and Lancaster to unite. A very clever move by Henry Tudor.
1485	Battle of Bosworth Henry Tudor wins.	7. Lord Stanley	Originally on Richard III's side at the Battle of Bosworth, he switched sides during the battle, enabling Henry Tudor to ride over and kill Richard III.
Key Words & Definitions			Key Spellings
Protector	1. An Adult who rules in the name of a young monarch until that monarch is old enough to rule.		1. Battle
Illegitimate	2. A child who's born to parents who are not legally married.		2. Bosworth
Heir	3. A person who is next in line to the throne.		3. Protector
Descended	4. person who is <u>descended</u> from someone who <u>lived</u> a long time <u>ago</u> is <u>directly</u> related to them		4. Illegitimate
War of the Roses	5. A series of battles between the English house of York and Lancaster.		5. Heir
Coronation	6. The ceremony of crowning a King and Queen.		6. Descended
Coat of Arms	7. A distinctive design belonging to a knight or family, often used as Shields, Flags and Clothing.		7. Henry Tudor
Lancaster	8. The House of Lancaster, a branch of the Plantagenet family, descended from John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and the third surviving son of King Edward III it was represented by a Red rose.		8. Richard
York	9. House of York, younger branch of the house of Plantagenet of England. In the 15th century, having overthrown the house of Lancaster, it was represented by a White rose.		10. Crowned

History Knowledge Organiser – Year 7 - Term 2 Wars of the Roses

Key Battles	Description
1. The Battle of St Albans (22 May 1455) 	<p>The opening battle of the War of the Roses saw Richard Duke of York lead an army of 3,000 men against London. He had been named Lord Protector while Henry VI recovered from a bout of insanity. However, he had been dismissed as the king's wife Margaret sensed a threat to the hopes of her own son Edward.</p> <p>The King's army set up a defensive position in the town of St Albans, but a surprise attack from the Earl of Warwick overran their defences. Henry was captured and taken to London.</p>
2. The Battle of Wakefield (30 December 1460) 	<p>After an uneasy peace between the sides, Richard was defeated at the Battle of Ludford Bridge in 1459. He escaped to Ireland, to the relative safety of Dublin.</p> <p>York's allies returned to England in 1460 and again captured Henry at the Battle of Northampton. York returned and tried to claim the throne, but was refused. Instead he would serve as Lord Protector while his sons, rather than Henry's, would inherit.</p> <p>Meanwhile the Lancastrians were gathering their strength in the north. Richard, along with Richard Neville, the Earl of Salisbury, marched north where he surprisingly attacked a much larger army. Richard's forces were overwhelmed and he was killed.</p>
3. The Battle of Towton (29 March 1461) 	<p>Despite Richard's death at Wakefield, his son Edward had still managed to make it to London where he had claimed the crown. He still needed to win it though and he attacked the Lancastrians at the town of Towton.</p> <p>Edward's archers held an advantage. By using the snow and the wind they were able to shoot further than the opposition. The Lancastrian response was to charge, but just as it seemed the Yorkist line was about to break John Mowbray, the Duke of Norfolk, arrived with reinforcements and Edward won the day. Henry VI and the Queen fled and Edward was crowned king formally at Westminster</p>
4. The Battle of Tewkesbury (4 May 1471) 	<p>Edward had ruled for eight years, but his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville annoyed many of his key allies, chief of which was the Earl of Warwick, the so called King Maker. Warwick changed sides and swore his allegiance to the Lancastrian cause. He was defeated, however, and killed just as Margaret was on her way back to England to claim her crown.</p> <p>The Lancastrian forces fled towards the Welsh border. They were intercepted by Edward at Tewkesbury where Margaret's son, Edward the Prince of Wales, was killed. Edward was now in complete control.</p>
5. The Battle of Bosworth Field (22 August 1485) 	<p>After the death of Edward IV power should have gone to his son Edward. However, both the young princes were killed while in the Tower of London. Though widely suspected in the killing, Edward's brother Richard became King.</p> <p>Meanwhile the new Lancastrian claimant, Henry Tudor landed in Wales to challenge Richard for the crown. They met at Bosworth where Lord Thomas Stanley and his brother Sir William switched sides from Richard to Henry.</p> <p>The Yorkists were defeated and Richard was killed. Henry was crowned the first of the Tudor Kings. Although a further battle occurred in Stoke, the War of the Roses had effectively come to an end.</p>